



## Complete Summary

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### TITLE

Chronic wound care: percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of diabetes and foot ulcer who were prescribed an appropriate method of offloading (pressure relief) within the 12 month reporting period.

### SOURCE(S)

American Society for Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Chronic wound care physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association (AMA); 2008 Aug. 35 p. [19 references]

## Measure Domain

### PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

### SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percentage of patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of diabetes and foot ulcer who were prescribed an appropriate method of offloading (pressure relief) within the 12 month reporting period.

### RATIONALE

Offloading is a mainstay in the prevention and treatment of diabetic foot ulcers. Despite its importance in the care of patients with diabetic foot ulcers, a recent study examining wound care practices found that approximately 23% of patients with diabetic ulcers had no documentation of offloading devices.

The following clinical recommendation statements are quoted verbatim from the referenced clinical guidelines and represent the evidence base for the measure:

The reduction of pressure to the diabetic foot ulcer is essential to treatment. Proper off-loading and pressure reduction prevents further trauma and promotes healing. This is particularly important in the diabetic patient with decreased or absent sensation in the lower extremities. (Frykberg et al., American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons [ACFAS], 2006)

Relieving pressure on the diabetic wound is necessary to maximize healing potential. Acceptable methods of offloading include crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, custom shoes, depth shoes, shoe modifications, custom inserts, custom relief orthotic walkers (CROW), diabetic boots, forefoot and heel relief shoes, and total contact casts. (Wound Healing Society [WHS], 2006)

Removal of pressure from a foot wound (i.e., off-loading) is crucial to the healing process. Many types of devices can offload the infected wound, but it is important to choose one that permits easy inspection. (Lipsky et al., Infectious Diseases Society of America [IDSA], 2004)

## **PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT**

Chronic wound care; diabetes mellitus; diabetic foot ulcer; offloading/pressure relief devices (crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, custom shoes, depth shoes, shoe modifications, custom inserts, custom relief orthotic walkers [CROW], diabetic boots, forefoot and heel relief shoes, total contact casts)

## **DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION**

All patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of diabetes and foot ulcer (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

## **NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION**

Patients who were prescribed an appropriate method of offloading (pressure relief) within the 12 month reporting period (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

## **Evidence Supporting the Measure**

### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY**

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence
- One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

### **NATIONAL GUIDELINE CLEARINGHOUSE LINK**

- [Diabetic foot disorders: a clinical practice guideline.](#)

## **Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure**

### **NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Variation in quality for the performance measured

## **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Jones KR, Fennie K, Lenihan A. Evidence-based management of chronic wounds. Adv Skin Wound Care 2007 Nov;20(11):591-600. [42 references] [PubMed](#)

## **State of Use of the Measure**

### **STATE OF USE**

Current routine use

### **CURRENT USE**

Internal quality improvement

## **Application of Measure in its Current Use**

### **CARE SETTING**

Physician Group Practices/Clinics

### **PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE**

Physicians

### **LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED**

Individual Clinicians

### **TARGET POPULATION AGE**

Age greater than or equal to 18 years

### **TARGET POPULATION GENDER**

Either male or female

### **STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

## **Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component**

### **INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

See the "Rationale" field.

## **ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

## **BURDEN OF ILLNESS**

Unspecified

## **UTILIZATION**

Unspecified

## **COSTS**

Unspecified

## **Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories**

### **IOM CARE NEED**

Getting Better  
Living with Illness

### **IOM DOMAIN**

Effectiveness

## **Data Collection for the Measure**

### **CASE FINDING**

Users of care only

### **DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING**

All patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of diabetes and foot ulcer

### **DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME**

Patients associated with provider

### **DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**

#### **Inclusions**

All patients aged 18 years and older with a diagnosis of diabetes and foot ulcer

**Note:** Refer to the original measure documentation for administrative codes.

#### **Exclusions**

- Documentation of medical reason(s) for not prescribing an appropriate method of offloading (pressure relief) (e.g., non-plantar location)
- Documentation of patient reason(s) for not prescribing an appropriate method of offloading (pressure relief)
- Documentation of system reason(s) for not prescribing an appropriate method of offloading (pressure relief)

## **RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR**

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

## **DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT**

Clinical Condition  
Encounter

## **DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW**

Time window is a single point in time

## **NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**

### **Inclusions**

Patients who were prescribed an appropriate\* method of offloading (pressure relief) within the 12 month reporting period

\*An appropriate method of offloading (pressure relief) includes any of the following: crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, custom shoes, depth shoes, shoe modifications, custom inserts, custom relief orthotic walkers (CROW), diabetic boots, forefoot and heel relief shoes, or total contact casts.

**Note:** Refer to the original measure documentation for administrative codes.

### **Exclusions**

None

## **MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS**

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

## **NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW**

Fixed time period

## **DATA SOURCE**

Administrative data  
Medical record

**LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY**

Individual Case

**PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED**

Unspecified

**Computation of the Measure****SCORING**

Rate

**INTERPRETATION OF SCORE**

Better quality is associated with a higher score

**ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS**

Unspecified

**STANDARD OF COMPARISON**

Internal time comparison

**Evaluation of Measure Properties****EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING**

Unspecified

**Identifying Information****ORIGINAL TITLE**

Measure #6: offloading (pressure relief) of diabetic foot ulcers.

**MEASURE COLLECTION**

[The Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Measurement Sets](#)

**MEASURE SET NAME**

[Chronic Wound Care Physician Performance Measurement Set](#)

**SUBMITTER**

American Medical Association on behalf of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, and National Committee for Quality Assurance

## **DEVELOPER**

American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
National Committee for Quality Assurance  
Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®

## **FUNDING SOURCE(S)**

Unspecified

## **COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE**

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## **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Conflicts, if any, are disclosed in accordance with the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® conflict of interest policy.

## **ADAPTATION**

Measure was not adapted from another source.

## **RELEASE DATE**

2008 Aug

## **MEASURE STATUS**

This is the current release of the measure.

## **SOURCE(S)**

American Society for Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Chronic wound care physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association (AMA); 2008 Aug. 35 p. [19 references]

## **MEASURE AVAILABILITY**

The individual measure, "Measure #6: Offloading (Pressure Relief) of Diabetic Foot Ulcers," is published in "Chronic Wound Care Physician Performance Measurement Set." This document and technical specifications are available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the American Medical Association (AMA)-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Web site: [www.physicianconsortium.org](http://www.physicianconsortium.org).

For further information, please contact AMA staff by e-mail at [cqi@ama-assn.org](mailto:cqi@ama-assn.org).

## **NQMC STATUS**

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on April 7, 2009. The information was verified by the measure developer on June 4, 2009.

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